

Remarks

In response to the Office action mailed December 19, 2005, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Millin for the courtesy of treating the March 7, 2006 telephone conference with the undersigned representative as an interview. The substance of the interview is included in the following.

The § 112 ¶ 2 rejection of all the claims as “recit[ing] an undue multiplicity of claims” was discussed. (*See* 12/19/05 Office Action at 3.) Examiner Millin indicated that the rejection was withdrawn.

Applicant’s representative pointed out that any apparent undue multiplicity was refuted, among other reasons, by the fact that the claims are mostly of only two types: methods and computer-based systems. (These are method claims 1-52 and 54 and computer-based system claims 53 and 56-107. Claim 55 recites a computer-based method.) Examiner Millin indicated that he would ask Examiner Subramanian to consider the claims in that light. In view of this, the rejection’s withdrawal, and Applicant’s belief that a single invention is claimed, Applicant respectfully declines the suggestion to provide a further grouping of claims. (*See* 12/19/05 Office Action at 3.)


The objection to the Abstract as too long (*see* 12/19/05 Office Action at 3) is obviated by the above-requested amendment to the specification, which substitutes for the current text a new Abstract containing 148 words. No new matter is presented.

Applicant thanks Examiner Subramanian for his consideration of the references submitted with the February 25, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement. To clarify that the Examiner has considered the three references cited in the November 4, 2004 Petition to Make Special, Applicant submits as Appendix A to this Amendment a Form PTO-1449 and

copies of the references. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner confirm his consideration of those references by filling out the appropriate sections of the accompanying form and returning a copy to Applicant with the next communication.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven I. Wallach", written over a horizontal line.

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